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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1920

**A National Disgrace.**

Commendable as are the efforts of intelligent minorities in this country to conserve health and life, the fact remains that a majority of the population has no just conception of either the moral or economic badness of our national habit of life-taking and life-undervaluation.

If there was a public opinion fully educated it would not be possible for the Health and Accident Underwriters' Conference now in annual session to report that more than 100,000 persons are annually killed mainly owing to their own or other persons' carelessness. The figures also given as to the number of accidents are so astounding that we dare not give further publicity to them. They provoke derision as to our boasted safety and civilization. Suffice it to say that there are millions of casualties for which there is no justification.

The, as yet, relatively large size of the American family and the gain in population from immigration combine to create a feeling of indifference as to what the toll of lives by personal carelessness or unenforced preventive law is. We like to have ambulances at the bottom of cliffs but we decline to build fences at their tops. We think ourselves pious because of our generous remedies, and forget our scamped preventives. We govern with considerable rigidity modes of transportation that run on fixed rails, but we let other forms using the common highways imperil pedestrians every hour, and if perchance we attempt to curb them by law and happen to find administrators who put teeth in preventive legislation then we start in to crucify them for doing what they are sworn to do. Or if that is thought to be a harsh way of getting rid of them, then we cut off their appropriations and starve them out.

Possibly some day, after we have had a war to decimate our population, slaughter our manhood, starve our women and children and the like, then we will value life and unutilized humanity as we do not now.

**Italy's Earthquakes.**

In normal times there would be intense sympathy for Italy at the present hour, as she faces the consequences of the repeated earthquakes in the Emilia district covering an area of 7,200 miles and with 2,500,000 inhabitants. There is no justifiable excuse now for failing to do as much as we would were the world back where it was in 1913. Life is life and death is death today just as it was then, and wisdom would incline the truly good to jump at a chance to show that a spirit of fraternity is alive in the world despite many indications to the contrary. Ample aid from this country given just at the present time would go far to restore something like the old confidence in America that Italy had prior to the Peace Conference.

As usual in such times of popular terror and sorrow the King is alert to personal as well as official obligations. The years of his monarchical responsibility have brought him an unusually large number of chances to show his largeness of heart. To kindly power he adds human love of a very democratic, appealing kind. He reigns to serve others not himself, and never is he better illustrating his fineness of nature than when his people are in extremity.

Naturally the resources of the International Red Cross organization will instantly be put at the service of the destitute in Emilia's river region. Italy will find that she is to profit by the aid of an organization that knows its job as never before. But she also needs practical expression of sympathy from this country. Her sons and daughters now resident here will be generous. But so should be all persons with means whatever their nativity or racial ties.

**The Primary Elections.**

Until there is fuller light on some of the admitted and reported victories and defeats in the primary elections it is rather premature to reason in general terms about what the decisions mean or what they forecast for November. Too many currents and eddies are running now to make the task easy even when there is full information. The effect of the personal emotion on the voter's choice has to be known, and also what he considers his supreme loyalty, whether to the country as a whole, to the party, to a faction of it, to his church or his race.

Senator Lenroot's victory in Wisconsin by no possible stretch of the imagination can be explained on the same grounds as Thomas Watson's in Georgia or Senator Moses' in New Hampshire.

Apparently the American Federation of Labor's influence has been decisive in some cases, and the Anti-Saloon League's in others. Data to determine what influence newly enfranchised woman has had is wholly wanting as yet. She had none in Georgia because she did not vote. We must wait for the interpreter to take the place of the mere chronicler of facts. The politicians who are now shouting with glee may have to abate their joy on reflection.

Our disposition to discount the primary as a sure index of what will follow in the election is based on the record of the near past. Primaries settle factional fights and personal feuds. But they do not prophesy always with a certainty that induces plunging among persons who bet. They often give rise to new feuds while settling old ones.

**The Banker as a Middleman.**

The Interstate Commerce Commission is to be congratulated on taking itself more seriously and for extending with its newly acquired power its functions as an investigator of all phases of railway administration and finance. Congress rather than accept at the present time other programs for control of the railways decided to make the Esch-Cummins act the charter for a commission that if vigorously employed and intelligently administered might come to be, as never before, a protector of public interests.

This comment is suggested by the investigation that the commission has just started involving the New York Central's recent undertaking, a bond issue of \$25,000,000. It is not the necessity of the flotation that is in dispute nor the amount; but the charge that a famous banking firm is making for its commission. The commission may prove to be playing a new role, that of protector of investors and the railway management from the excessive demands of "high financiers" turned profiteers. At any rate it will be educating to know precisely what the arguments of the middlemen are.

The Spanish warship, Alfonso XIII, now in New York Harbor, carries as part of its equipment a cow, so that those aboard may indulge in fresh milk. This looks like a good scheme, but why not also chickens for fresh eggs? The cow idea ought to give motorists with growing children a hunch. Why not take a cow along on tours, either in the car or in a trailer?

The eighty members of the Hapsburg family who are in financial distress, and as a consequence must go to work may find in labor not only satisfaction, but real royalty.

With Tom Watson a member of the Senate, seats in the visitors' gallery will be at a premium.

**New York City**  
By O. O. McIntyre.

**Thoughts While Strolling.**  
New York, Sept. 9.—Thoughts while strolling around New York: A blonde young man in a sport shirt. I thought there was some law against those things. Hard-faced woman in the door of a dance. They dance now from 10 a. m. until midnight. Chorus girls in sweaters and bloomers getting a breath of fresh air at the back stage door. An itinerant photographer takes their pictures in tin types. Chattering loiterers pour out of buildings for lunch. All the girls are touching up their lips. Willie Collier tells of a hair-dresser who announced in a rage that he would starve before he ever shaved the head of a woman. There is a red cupped man for you. It was in this hall that I first heard Paderewski. You can never tell about these pale, thin fellows.

James K. Hackett standing in front of his theater—the Criterion. It is a movie palace now. The first overcoat! In a few more weeks I'll look and see what the movie left of mine. Everything seems quiet around the Lambs. But you can never tell. Europe was never so peaceful as it was a few months before the fight. A Syrian woman talking to a Chinaman. Both are street peddlers. Joe Weber now calls himself "Joseph Weber" on the billboards.

They're marking shoes down to 31c. There's too much reckless price slashing in this town. Will Rogers in town from California. Still chewing gum. Great comedian. And the movie nabbed him. There goes the Florida troupe to the train. Bet some of the girls come back with millionaires. Sailors working with their arms around their girls' waists. It's great to be young.

An old gentleman taking an ice cream soda out to the traffic cop. An omnibus filled with blind children. They are all laughing. Cap Churchill has opened his restaurant again for this winter. He's going to stick to the cabaret business until the last gasp. Only about four first class cabarets left. Prim and old ladies come down from lower Fifth avenue—the last remnants of a shabby aristocracy.

**The Worst Spellers.**

Comic strip artists and cartoonists are reputed to be the worst spellers in the profession. Almost every cartoonist has a dictionary on his drawing board. Yet a glance at signs around New York shows some rare feats of spelling. A huge electric sign on Twenty-third street carries the catch line: "For he who knows." "Drive Slow" is a classic in almost every public park. A Broadway window carries the word "Cafeteria." Ten signs on Columbus avenue announce: "Stationary and Cigars."

**Latest in Announcements.**

Members of the social set in a Long Island colony have received the following engraved announcements from Reno, Nev., and Mrs. — announce their divorce on the grounds of incompatibility. They wish their friends to know that they part with good feeling and mutual esteem.

**Ben de Casanera Returns.**

Ben de Casanera, poet and philosopher, brown and fit from a protracted vacation at the Polo Grounds returned to his night haunts of Broadway recently for the winter. He found all the old familiar faces gone. At 11 Jack's was as quiet as a stupa parlor before the usual tipped-off raid. The jazz shop held only one or two sleepy, yawning waiters at midnight—the center of night life three years ago was packed. The head waiter was going over to Central Park. But a pair of couples play croquet under the electric lights and eat pickle sandwiches and drink sarsaparilla. On the surface New York sleeps, save for the theater crowds. But a peep into the private clubs, apartments and restaurants reveals that there are some faint flashes of gay life left.

**Richard Spillane Says:**

Many men have had tributes paid to them by their associates or employees, but rarely have there been one more beautiful than that in honor of Henry L. Doherty. He is the head of many enterprises, including electric concerns, gas companies, telephone and power systems and such throughout the country. His interests cover twenty or more States.

There is an organization called the Doherty Men's Fraternity, and has 5,794 members. Mr. Doherty was 50 years old a short time ago. In all the twenty or more States where the fraternity has chapters the members celebrated his birthday by planting trees in his honor, so that those who follow them may know the esteem in which the "first gentleman" held "The Chief."

**Has No Military Bills.**

Washington is expecting a visit shortly from an adventurous young Danish woman, Miss Estrid Lin, captain in the Danish Girl Scouts. She is touring the world bareheaded and in scout's uniform, for the purpose of writing a book called "Around the World Without a Hat."

**New Berlin Naval Advisor.**

At the request of the State Department the United States Navy has detailed Commander W. P. Buehler as naval advisor to Mr. Drosel, the American Commissioner in Berlin. Commander Buehler will leave for his new post on September 20. He has latterly been on duty in the engineering department of the Navy Yard at New York.

**Called "Best Tempered Girl."**

Late English newspapers "feature" a young English woman named Norah Saunders who is described as "the best tempered girl in the world."

**DELIVERING IT TO THE WRONG DOOR.**



**Notes by a Washington Observer**

**Taggart Sees Indiana for Cox—Italy Soon to Get Two Ships From U. S.—Shop-keeper Takes No Chances.**

Thomas L. Taggart, Democratic "boss" of Indiana and candidate for the United States Senate against Senator James E. Watson, was a caller on Mr. Tumulty at the White House yesterday. He said he had come to bring word of the Democratic prospects in Indiana and the country at large.

**Soon to Give Ships to Italy.**

The President has on his desk for signature formal authorization to the Navy Department to turn over to the Italian navy two Austro-Hungarian super-dreadnaughts which have been manned and maintained by American naval forces in the Adriatic since the end of the war. They are the first-class battle cruisers Zrinyi and Radecky. The peace conference allotted the two ships and two destroyers to the American navy. The destroyers were later driven ashore and wrecked. The Italian government has for some time been pressing the United States to hand over the battleships, and they are now to be transferred to the Italians on condition that they are to be destroyed.

**Playing Both Ends.**

There is a store in Fourteenth street that means to be on the safe side, no matter what happens November 2. In its main show window it displays portraits of both Senator Harding and Gov. Cox. Between the pictures is a placard reading: "Our Next President."

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**A DAILY LINE O' CHEER**

By John Kendrick Bangs.

**REPAYMENT.**

God gave me life, and light and air. Each day that comes I get my share. And yet my soul is full of care.

For I despise a debtor's lack. I can't see along what track I'm going to work to pay God back.

Unless, perchance, my task shall be To use these wondrous gifts that He Hath in His love bestowed on me. That when at last my course is run His Bath shall be for what I've done.

A greener and a sweeter one.

**In the Limelight**  
By George Perry Morris.

**A Teacher Who Was Not a Pedant.**  
Yale men who studied Greek in the '70s and '80s at Yale with the late Bernadette Perrin as teacher are contrasting his humanistic and inspiring methods with those of another member of the Greek department. The latter made a lesson in the "Odyssey" a "rigorous lesson in parsing. Never a word from him about the manners and customs of the Greeks, never an allusion to poetic beauty or felicitous phrase. In P's eyes a student was an object of suspicion, to be caught and punished if possible." On the other hand, Perrin, so says Philip Hale, was "liberal and sympathetic and made the student his friend. The student felt encouraged, the laziest was stimulated. When they read the "Odyssey" Rex of Scholes with him they recognized the marvelous ingenuity shown in the construction of the plot, the art displayed in the representation of the sublime tragedy.

We remember him as a teacher who was "at one with the glory of Greek literature." One likes to speculate on the share that this sort of teaching had on Hale, who, when he writes musical and dramatic criticism, does it with style, charm and an intellectual background that is prior to Bernard Shaw and George Cohan.

**Admiral Knapp to Haiti.**  
Orders recalling to active duty Rear Admiral Henry Knapp, retired, and sending him to Haiti to be senior naval representative, stir speculation as to their motive. Some rather specific and damaging charges (if true) have recently been brought against the methods and principles of our government of that island. The reputation of the navy is involved. Possibly this commission has some relation to radicalism on one point, and he reckons on rather sharp attack from some of the most conservative religious and humanitarian organizations of the country. It also is interesting to find that the Senate committee which has authority in the premises is planning to report favorably on such legislation. The Voluntary Parenthood League, which is responsible for these reports, has its headquarters in New York City, and it has already adjusted its latest propaganda literature to conditions of home life, its own etc., now prevalent conditions which work against large families, even in the middle class stratum of society.

**THE BIBLE**

Translated out of the original tongues and from the edition known as "Our Mothers' Bible."

**THE BOOK OF JOSHUA.**

CHAPTER 5.

1 The Canaanites are afraid. 2 Joshua renews circumcision. 10 The passover is kept at Gilgal. 12 Manna ceaseth. 13 An Angel appears to Joshua.

And it came to pass, when all the kings of the Amorites, which were on the side of Jordan westward, and all the kings of the Canaanites, which were by the sea, heard that the Lord had dried up the waters of Jordan from before the children of Israel, until we were passed over, that their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them any more, because of the children of Israel.

2 At that time the Lord said unto Joshua, Make thee sharp knives, and circumcise again the children of Israel a second time. And Joshua made him sharp knives, and circumcised the children of Israel at the hill of the foreskins.

3 And this is the cause why Joshua did circumcise. All the people that came out of Egypt, that were males, even all the men of war, died in the wilderness by the way, after they came out of Egypt.

4 Now as for the people that came out were circumcised, but all the people that were born in the wilderness by the way as they came forth out of Egypt, them they had not circumcised.

5 For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people that were men of war, which came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they obeyed not the voice of the Lord. And Joshua said unto all the people, Circumcise ye, for ye are uncircumcised.

6 And Joshua said unto all the people, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day.

7 And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho.

8 And they did eat of the old corn of the land on the morrow after they came out of Egypt, and parched corn in the selfsame day.

9 And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

10 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand; and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?

11 And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord I am now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What hath my lord unto his servant?

12 And the captain of the Lord's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.

13 And Joshua and all the Israelites served the Lord throughout the land of Canaan.

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